11

A True and Perfect

RELATION

OF THE

ENGAGEMENT

That happened between His Majesties Ship the

KING's-FISHER,

Cap. Francis Wheeler, Comr.

AND THE

GOLDEN ROSE

OF

ARGIERS,

The *4th.* of *October* 1681. Fitted from thence by the People of *SALLY*, Mounted with 22. Guns, and 22. Petereroes; wherein the Particulars of the Engagement, and taking of the said Ship, as it was Communicated in a Letter, dated the *6th.* of *October* last, from *Malaga* Road, to the Secretary of the Admiralty, are as followeth.

AFter I had *Carreen'd* and fitted my Ship at *Gibraltar*, in Pursuance of *Admiral Herbert's* Orders, last *Friday* the *30th.* of *September*, We went into the *Gut* to Cruise, between *Gibraltar* and *Sutta*, on *Tuesday* the *4th.* instant, being *N. E.* by *E.* from *Gibraltar* 10. Leagues off, standing to the *S.* ward, the Wind *Westerly*; We happened to stand stem for stem with the *Golden Rose*, fitted out of *Argiers*, (but it seems at the Charge of some People at *Sally*,) Mounted with 22. Guns, and 20. Petereroes; As soon as we made what they were, we gave chace upon a Wind, to the *N.* ward, and in less then one hour got into her Wake, and within Musquet Shot, at which time unluckily our Fore-top-mast came by the Board, which brought down the Main-top-gallant-mast; when he out-reached us, but seeing a Ship under the *Spanish Shoar*, he put attays, but the Ship refusing it, he put a way afore the Wind. When we had cleared our selves of our Fore-top-sail, and got our Main-top-gallant-sail on our Fore-top-mast-Stump, we had him so well under our Lee, that he could not clap by without

out hazard of being run down by us; We bore away, and Out-Sail'd him, and with one of our Chase-Guns, Shot down his Fore-mast, and presently got Aboard fair along his side; but for want of his Rigging, my Bow-sprit could not get any hold, and being before the Wind, though our Courses were hawled up, and the Main-top-sail lowred down to the Slings, yet we could not keep a Stern, and mist entring my Men; We got Aboard twice after very well forward, but by the same reason could not keep fast; The fourth time we got up our Grapples on our Star-board-side, and intended to be fast on his Lar-board bow, but just as we were coming upon his Quarter, he skilfully put his Helm hard a Star-board, and had like to have been Thwart our Hawser, which we prevented by quick working, and got very well on his other side; But his Sails being all Torn, We could not come to make fast a Hawser to his Main-shrouds, but upon his falling off, We brought our Star-board-side, to bear, and cut down his Main, and Mizon Masts; Upon which he yielded.

Upon my Lieutenants going on Board, they found five Foot Water in hold, occasioned by seven Shot under Water, of which two were double-head, all Unplugged, the Pumps shot in peices, and before they could get the Boat out of the way to Bayl, the Water was within two Foot of the Gun-Deck: When the Water began to come in at the Ports, several of the Port-Lids being Shot away, and there being a great Sea, for want of Masts, She rowled so extreamly, as contributed much to her loss, though they got Her afore the Wind with all the dilligence possible; we got Her in a Towe, and by that time we had Her along our Quarter to save the Men; She went down Head formost, with abundance of Wounded Moors who were in the great Cabbin, Steerage between Deck, and in hold, with two of my own Men who staid too long below to Plunder. The main reason of Her loss was occasioned by the Moors, who being so terribly frighted, did not stop the shot-holes; and although our People did it as well as the shortness of the time would permit, yet 'twas then too late, and 'tis not unlikely but that they mist finding of some.

Of our Men there were two Kill'd, three Wounded, and two Drowned. The smallness of the loss makes it reasonable to judge they did not fight very well; but this I am certain, that 'twas great courage in them to be so stubborn as not to yeild, but to venture to take our Broad-side four times, so near as our low Guns touched his Ship-side, Loaded with Round and Double-shot, with thirty Musqueteers playing upon them, besides abundance of Shot sent them before, I really judge never beyond Pistol-shot.

'Twas near this place She yielded, so that it is not out of my way to come in to get up a new Top-Mast, Fish our Fore-Yard, which is dangerously Wounded, and knot and fit our Rigging, and mend our Sails; as also in our way fill some Cask with Water, which will all be performed by to morrow night, and then to Cruise with our clean Ship, who we find Sails well large, and pretty well by. This Ship had when she came out of *Argiers* near 150 Men, whereof eight Christians and three Renegadoes, of which not above one half are to be found, and all of them we saved by Swimming, and our Boat; 28 are wounded, and a good part of them very dangerous; We began to fire our Chace-Guns near eight a Clock, Boarded Her the first time near ten, and Shee yielded at two, and Sunk at three a Clock, or past.

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